AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for authenticating documents, comprising:

    providing a sales machine which allows a customer to purchase goods and/or services against payment by providing a document as cash in the form of banknotes, vouchers or the like;

    feeding the document to a verification unit by means of an input unit, wherein the verification unit is provided for authenticating the document,

    authenticating the document, wherein said authenticating the document is performed with a combination of at least two different verification methods;

    comparing the at least two verification methods with verification specifications;

    determining a probability of authenticity of the document.

    releasing the document for further processing, the further processing comprising:

    accepting the document as positively authenticated when the probability meets predetermined criteria; and

    providing visual verification to an operator when the probability does not meet the predetermined criteria and the document is negatively authenticated, the visual verification including:

    recording the document as an image and presenting the image to ~~an~~ the operator, ~~and at least one of~~ accepting the document when the document passes the visual verification, and refusing acceptance when the document does not pass the visual verification.

2. (Previously Presented) Method pursuant to claim 1, wherein the at least two verification methods are selected from the group comprising size verification, magnetic verification, image verification, infrared verification, UV verification, and visual verification.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) Method pursuant to claim 1, wherein the visual verification method is performed only on documents of a desired value.

6. (Currently Amended) Method pursuant to claim 1, wherein the visual verification method is performed via direct visual authentication of the image of the document.

7-8. (Cancelled)